

Energy Efficiency Programs for Small Businesses Vermont

In 1999, the Energy Efficiency Utility, also known as Efficiency Vermont, was created to deliver energy efficiency services to energy consumers throughout the state. The program resulted from a settlement between Vermont electric utilities, the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS), and other interested parties, and was approved by the Public Service Board (PSB). The city of Burlington was provided with an exemption and does not participate in the Efficiency Vermont program; instead, the city operates its own Energy Efficiency Utility (EEU) within its territory. Efficiency Vermont began delivering services in 2000, and the program still continues today.

Efficiency Vermont is funded by the Energy Efficiency Charge, which is on all consumers' electric bills. Funding for services that reduce heating fuel comes from revenues from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and revenues Efficiency Vermont receives from selling energy efficiency savings to the region's Forward Capacity Market. The purpose of the Energy Efficiency Charge is to help Vermont consumers reduce energy use, offer financial assistance, and help upgrade to more energy efficient equipment.

Small businesses have the opportunity to take advantage of these great programs through [Efficiency Vermont](#). The program allows business owners to upgrade to new, energy efficient equipment at a very reasonable cost. By visiting the website, business owners can identify the equipment that needs to be upgraded. The equipment ranges from lighting to insulation to refrigeration.

- To get started, first find a participating BPI (Building Performance Institute) contractor [here](#).
- The contractor will perform an energy audit to identify energy efficiency improvements that can be made. The contractor will provide you with a work scope and share an estimate of the Efficiency Vermont rebates that may be available.
- Once a participating contractor is selected and audit complete, the recommended improvements will be made by the contractor.
- When the work is complete, the contractor will provide a final rebate form to be submitted to Efficiency Vermont. Efficiency Vermont will send you an incentive check within 60 days.

The terms and conditions of the rebate program are as follows:

- For new equipment purchased and installed between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.
- Rebate forms must be post-marked or received via e-mail by January 1, 2014.
- Projects with more than 100 items or rebate payment greater than \$5,000, or any new construction project greater than 10,000 sq. ft. must be pre-approved.
- Must provide proof of purchase.
- The maximum payment will not exceed 100% of the equipment purchase price. The customer is responsible for all costs associate with sales tax, installation, and disposal/recycling of old products.

Rebate forms are provided on the Efficiency Vermont website. This [example of a rebate form](#) is for commercial lighting.

For additional questions or concerns about Efficiency Vermont's rebate program or other energy efficiency incentives they provide, visit the [contact us](#) section of their website.

Note: *The city of Burlington has its own Energy Efficiency Utility (EEU) through Burlington Electric Department. For more information on their energy efficiency programs and incentives for local small businesses, visit the [Burlington Electric Department Website](#).*